

Notice of Allowability

Application No.	Applicant(s)	
09/909,661	JACOBSON, ALEXANDER	
Examiner	Art Unit	
Leo Boutsikaris	2872	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to amendment filed on 5/9/06.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 5,7-16,22,26,27,30 and 31.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
Paper No./Mail Date ____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date ____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date ____. | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 5, 7-16, 22, 26-27, 30-31 are allowed.

Claims 5, 7-16, 22, 26-27, 30-31 are allowable over the prior art of record for at least the reason that even though the prior art discloses optical couplers comprising a non-polarizing beamsplitter having a common optical aperture receiving light from all the input/output ports, or optical couplers comprising a plurality of polarizing beamsplitters, the polarizing beamsplitters having a plurality of optical apertures receiving light from the various ports, the prior art fails to teach or reasonably suggest, regarding claims 5, 7-10, an apparatus comprising a beamsplitter having a common optical aperture disposed on an outer surface area to simultaneously receive the four light beams, on the outer surface area of the common optical aperture, wherein the beamsplitter has a coating on the inner surface to separate the S-polarized and P-polarized components of the light beam into spatially separate beams, regarding claims 11-16, an apparatus comprising a beamsplitter having a common optical aperture disposed on an outer surface area to simultaneously receive light from each of the plurality of collimating lenses, wherein the beamsplitter combines into the first output port, S-polarized light from the first input port with P-polarized light from the second input port, and combines into the second output port, S-polarized light from the third input port with P-polarized light from the fourth input port, regarding claim 22, an apparatus comprising a rhombic prism having a common optical aperture disposed on an outer surface area to simultaneously receive light from each of the plurality of collimating lenses,

and separate the S-polarized and P-polarized components of the light beam into spatially separate beams, regarding claims 26-27, a method comprising collimating at least four light beams by a single device having a common optical aperture, reflecting a S-polarized component of each of the at least four light beams and refracting a P-polarized component of each of the at least four light beams using the single device, and regarding claims 30-31, an apparatus comprising means for receiving at least four light beams by a single device having a common optical aperture, means for reflecting a S-polarized component of each of the at least four light beams and refracting a P-polarized component of each of the at least four light beams using the single device, as set forth by the claimed combination.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dr. Leo Boutsikaris whose telephone number is 571-272-2308. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 10-6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Drew Dunn can be reached on 571-272-2312. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

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system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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May 22, 2006


LEONIDAS BOUTSIKARIS
PRIMARY EXAMINER